*GEARHEADS Cycling Club*

**RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018**

The following risk management plan documents how GEARHEADS Cycling club activities are to be managed. All club members will be provided with a copy of the plan. These policies are to be practiced by club members, and visiting riders from other OCA/CCA/UCI affiliated clubs, during every club ride.

General

* All members of the Gearheads Cycling Club are responsible for bringing forward to the Gearheads Cycling Club Board any safety issues related to Gearheads Cycling Club Rides.
* While on Gearheads Cycling Club Rides, all club members must adhere to and obey all rules of the road as per the Provincial Highway Traffic Acts.
* Any Gearheads Cycling Club member on a Gearheads Cycling Club Ride should immediately advise the ride coordinator(s) and other members of the ride should the member feel the group or individuals in the group are riding in an unsafe manner. The member should withdraw from the ride if they feel unsafe.
* All participants of the Gearheads Cycling Club Rides must provide proof of membership in good standing prior to each ride, if requested by the ride coordinator. If an ineligible rider insists on participating even after being asked not to, then the Gearheads Cycling Club Ride may proceed, however, the ride coordinator shall advise the ineligible rider, with a witness present, that he or she is ineligible and is not covered by any Gearheads Cycling Club insurance and is responsible for all his/ her actions.
* Each Gearheads Cycling Club Ride participant will conduct themselves in a responsible manner and retains liability for their own actions.

Safety

* Helmets must be worn at all times on Gearheads Cycling Club activities. Clubs are expected to operate both competitive and non-competitive events according to their established risk management procedures designed to reduce the possibility of accidents. All participants need to be informed that the ultimate responsibility for safety rests with the individuals.

Ride Coordinators

* A ride coordinator(s) will be appointed by the Gearheads Cycling Club Board for each Gearheads Cycling Club Ride. The ride coordinator will identify himself/herself to the group so that everyone is aware of who is coordinating the ride. The ride coordinator may describe the general ride route, and may provide a brief safety tip at the commencement of the ride. Each individual group on a Gearheads Cycling Club Ride may not have a coordinator.
* The ride coordinator(s) has the final decision on all matters pertaining to the Gearheads Cycling Club Ride and his/her decisions must be respected by all participants. The rider coordinator may appoint a designate should the ride coordinator be unable to attend a Gearheads Cycling Club Ride.
* Ride coordinators will carry cell phones for emergency use on all Gearheads Cycling Club Rides and, from time to time, will remind riders to carry their own cell phones on Gearheads Cycling Club Rides. Riders should immediately call 911 in the event of an emergency.

Rides

* Gearheads Cycling Club Rides on roads will be planned to use lesser- traveled roads where possible and practical.
* Gearheads Cycling Club Rides will not run if lightning is present and will be cancelled if lightning is sighted.
* When a large number of riders come out for any given Gearheads Cycling Club Ride, the riders will be encouraged by the ride coordinator to break into smaller groups. A size of 6-12 is a reasonable group. Groups should be at least 100 metres apart on the road to allow other vehicles to pass safely in two manoeuvres.
* Riders must not be left behind during a Gearheads Cycling Club Ride unless they first confirm with the ride coordinator(s) that they are detaching from the group; all members of the Gearheads Cycling Club Ride are responsible for ensuring they property notify the ride coordinator(s) if they are detaching from the group.
* Gearheads Cycling Club members are responsible for ensuring that their bicycle is in good working order before attending each CLUB Ride.
* Bicycle helmets must be worn at all times while participating in any Gearheads Cycling Club ride and other protective equipment is strongly encouraged (e.g., gloves, eye wear).
* Front and rear lights are required during any Gearheads Cycling Club Ride which takes place one half hour before sunset and/ or which may extend into darkness.
* Gearheads Cycling Club members are responsible for ensuring they are sufficiently fit for their desired activity.
* Gearheads Cycling Club members are responsible for bringing sufficient liquids and food, as required, for each Gearheads Cycling Club Ride, as well as appropriate tools/ spare tubes, etc.
* Gearheads Cycling Club members are not to be under the influence of any drug or beverage product that could impair their riding judgment while on a Gearheads Cycling Club Ride.
* Any and every accident on a Gearheads Cycling Club Ride shall be immediately reported to a Gearheads Cycling Club Board member to be reported to the Provincial Cycling Association through the proper reporting procedures and forms provided by CC. The list of Board members can be found on the Gearheads Cycling Club website.
* For non-CLUB riders wishing to try-out a CLUB Ride, extra waiver forms may be available at the beginning of each club ride. Proof of OCA membership will be required. (Citizen Permit, UCI or Affiliate Club Membership). Note prior approval by the club is required.

Skills Development

* The Gearheads Cycling Club encourages all riders to be comfortable and proficient with group riding before joining a Gearheads Cycling Club ride.
* To support rider skills development, the Gearheads Cycling Club will periodically hold skills development programs for road riding and/ or mountain biking and encourages all Gearheads Cycling Club members to attend these programs and / or other cycling skills courses.
* Riders may be requested to complete a skills development program before attending or continuing to attend regular scheduled Gearheads Cycling Club rides.
* New or novice member are encouraged to participate in the Learn to Ride programs offered by the Gearheads Cycling Club before participating in more challenging or technically advanced rides.

Waivers

* All club members must complete the Provincial/Cycling Canada waiver prior to obtaining membership. This can be done through the provincial membership registration site. Physical waivers may be approved with prior consent. Physical waivers for participants under the age of 19 are required to be sent in to the OCA office, completed by a parent or legal guardian prior to membership being issued.
* Do not alter the waiver in any way, specifically the language or spacing. Paper waivers must be submitted on the appropriate sized paper (8.5 X 11)
* Gearheads Cycling Club members under the age of 18 when joining the club must have an adult (18 years   or older) complete the waivers. It can be signed by someone other than the parent or legal guardian, but they may find themselves in an awkward position in the event of litigation, since they are accepting responsibility for the youth’s participation.
* Waivers will be stored at the Provincial office for a minimum of 7 years, to ensure that they can be accessed if legal action is taken against the club. Waivers are crucial in defending the club and the Provincial Association and CC during litigation.
* Failure to obtain waivers from all members of the club will place the clubs insurance coverage at risk.